

Office of Governor Mitch Daniels

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Weekly Update

State insurance, housing staff available to help flood victims

September 16, 2008— Representatives from the state's insurance, motor vehicles, and housing agencies will be in northwest Indiana beginning Thursday to help flood victims.

Governor Mitch Daniels, who visited flooded areas on Tuesday, said the state would begin to quickly provide the available state services and today, he sent Andy Miller, the director of the Office of Disaster Recovery, to meet with city and town officials from Lake and Porter counties, as well as state elected officials from the area, to implement plans.

On Tuesday, the governor signed Executive Order 08-16, which declared a disaster emergency for Lake and Porter counties. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) is currently assessing damage in northwest and southern Indiana that occurred when remnants of Hurricane Ike passed through the state last weekend. As soon as that assessment is completed, Governor Daniels will send a formal request for federal assistance to the President.

If the federal government approves the governor's request, applications for federal assistance will become available at that time. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Small Business Administration (SBA) applications or assistance are not available at this time.

Should the state's request for federal assistance be approved, the governor will open one-stop assistance centers in the region that will provide more state services.

In the meantime, severe weather victims are urged to report their damage by calling the toll free number 888-335-9490. Reports can be filed from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EDT Monday through Friday. The Indiana Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives is taking the reports.



September 16, 2008- Governor Daniels toured flooded areas of Munster by boat with a conservation officer from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

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RECOVERY**

Callers will be asked to provide their name, address, phone number, damage to property and type of damage the property sustained. Losses can include structural damage to homes and loss of personal property. This is not an application for any assistance program, including FEMA; it is a part of the process the state is using to request federal assistance.

A copy of the executive order may be found at this link: http://www.in.gov/gov/files/Press/EO_08-16.pdf

More information can be found at: www.emergency.in.gov

To view past updates, click [here](#).

To visit Governor Daniels' Web site, click [here](#).

Governor honors Hoosier Olympians

September 18, 2008— Governor Mitch Daniels honored the accomplishments of athletes and coaches with Indiana ties from the 2008 U.S. Olympic team by presenting them with a Distinguished Hoosier award during a ceremony at the State House.

"We are so proud of these fine young Hoosiers not only for their athletic excellence and incredible discipline, but for the character they have shown and the example they have set," said Daniels. "They have conducted themselves with tremendous poise and dignity, and I know that by showing those around them what they have accomplished and how they got there, they will surely make us a better state and a better people."

The Distinguished Hoosier is one of the highest awards given by the state of Indiana to its citizens. It is given at the discretion of the governor to Hoosiers who have brought honor to the state through their character and accomplishments.

Twenty-four members of the 2008 Olympic team either attended school or trained primarily in Indiana. Hoosiers from past Olympic teams in attendance today included: Terry Brahm (1988 – 5,000 meters), Ollan Cassell (1964 – 4x400 meter, gold medal), Joann Terry Grissom (1960, 1964 – hurdles) and Randy Heisler (1988 – discus).

The following Olympians received Distinguished Hoosier awards:

Soccer:

- **Lauren Cheney**, women's soccer (gold medal). Cheney is a native of Indianapolis and a graduate of Ben Davis High School.

Gymnastics:

- **Samantha Peszek**, women's team (silver medal). Peszek is a native of McCordsville and attends Cathedral High School.
- **Bridget Sloan**, women's team (silver medal). Sloan is a native of Pittsboro and attends Tri-West High School.

Diving:

- **David Boudia**, 10 meter platform and 10 meter synchronized. Boudia is from Noblesville and attends Purdue University.
- **Thomas Finchum**, 10 meter and 10 meter synchronized. Finchum is from Indianapolis.
- **Mary Beth Dunnichay**, 10 meter synchronized. Dunnichay is from Elwood.
- **Haley Ishimatsu**, 10 meter and 10 meter synchronized. Ishimatsu lives in Indianapolis.
- **Ariel Rittenhouse**, 3 meter synchronized. Rittenhouse lives in Indianapolis.
- USA Diving coach **John Wingfield** lives in Fishers.
- USA Diving assistant coach **Wenbo Chen** lives in Carmel.



September 18, 2008- Governor Mitch Daniels welcomed athletes with Indiana ties from the 2008 U.S. Olympic team to the Governor's Office and presented them with a Distinguished Hoosier award during a ceremony in the South Atrium of the State House.



September 18, 2008- Governor Daniels joined Hoosier members of the 2008 U.S. Olympic team and children from Oakland Elementary School in Elwood in the South Atrium of the State House.

Did you know...

...new pictures are added to Governor Daniels' photo gallery every week? [Click here](#) for more!

Governor breaks ground on new U.S. 31 in Lakeville, Kokomo

September 17, 2008- Governor Mitch Daniels this week broke ground on two major upgrades the U.S. 31 corridor in Marshall, St. Joseph, and Howard Counties.

In Lakeville, the governor joined Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) officials, state and local government officials, and representatives from the US 31 Coalition to break ground on the first contract for the New US 31 from Plymouth to South Bend.

"This project has been decades in the making and today it becomes a reality," Gov. Daniels said. "I'm confident this new freeway will provide an economic boon and better access for Elkhart, Marshall and St. Joseph counties."

This is the first construction project for the \$418.4 million project in Marshall and St. Joseph counties. The first contract includes soil mitigation and grading between U.S. Route 6 and State Road 4. Crews will return to that area in 2010 to construct the roadway.

Approximately 15 miles of the 20-mile corridor are being constructed on new terrain. Once complete, US 31 will be a freeway between Plymouth and South Bend, with access only at interchanges. Construction on the entire corridor is expected to be complete in 2015.

In Howard County, the governor celebrated the first phase of the \$345 million US 31 bypass around Kokomo. Construction will focus on completing a two-span structure measuring 200 feet in length – with 36 feet of clear roadway – to bridge County Road 200 South/Southway Boulevard over the new U.S. 31 route.

The entire corridor is approximately 14 miles in length. Upon completion, it will be a limited access freeway without stops or signals around the east side of Kokomo. Construction on the entire corridor is expected to be complete in 2014.

"Creating a safer flowing, high speed corridor around Kokomo will not only save Hoosiers time, it will help economic development flourish and make northern Indiana even more attractive to businesses looking to establish and expand their operations," said Daniels.

Governor Daniels' Major Moves transportation program fully funds a decade of critical highway projects in Indiana. This innovative plan will bring jobs to the Hoosier State and leave a legacy for Indiana to be a global leader in distribution and logistics.



September 17, 2008- Governor Mitch Daniels helped break ground on the new US 31 in Lakeville, celebrating the construction of the portion of the highway in Marshall and St. Joseph counties.



September 17, 2008- Governor Mitch Daniels helped break ground on the US 31 freeway upgrade in Kokomo.



September 17, 2008- Governor Daniels met Vicki Tedlock during a groundbreaking ceremony for the new US 31 bypass on the east side of Kokomo. With the help of INShape Indiana, Vicki has lost 179 lbs since October of 2007.

Check out the latest performance report [here](#).
View past reports [here](#).